

ILLINOIS FLORA: NOTES ON ERIOCHLOA AND JUSSIAEA. — During my field work in the autumn of 1958, I found a grass which is new to the Illinois flora and I obtained additional information on the distribution of *Jussiaea leptocarpa* Nutt. in Illinois.

Eriochloa gracilis (Fourn.) Hitchc. is an annual of open ground and frequently a weed in fields, which ranges, according to Hitchcock¹, from Oklahoma, western Texas and southern California, southward through the highlands of Mexico. Illinois must now be added to the known range.

On October 22, 1958, Dr. M. W. Sanderson, an insect taxonomist on the staff of the Illinois Natural History Survey, and I were collecting insects and plants in the bottomland or floodplain of the Mississippi River in southern Illinois. In the bottomland of northwestern Union County we visited a field of turnips and, while Dr. Sanderson swept for noxious insects, I collected some of the plants growing as weeds in this field and also in the adjacent field of mustard grown for greens. One of the grasses of this collection was *Eriochloa gracilis* (Fourn.) Hitchc.² Numerous individuals of this species were growing in several sizable patches. It may be that the seeds of *E. gracilis* had been accidentally introduced with the seeds of some farm crop. On November 12, I visited the field again and found that the plants of *E. gracilis* had produced numerous seeds.

Herbarium specimens, which are in the herbarium of the Illinois Natural History Survey (ILLS) and in the United States National Museum (US), have the following label data:

In a bottomland field 4 miles northwest of Ware, Union County, Illinois, October 22, 1958, *R. A. Evers 59736*; November 12, 1958, *R. A. Evers 59753*.

This occurrence of *Eriochloa gracilis* raises the number of species of this genus in Illinois to three. Two of these, *E. gracilis* and *E. contracta*, are North American; the third, *E.*

¹ Manual of the Grasses of the United States. Ed. 2.

² I wish to thank Dr. Jason R. Swallen, United States National Museum, for examining the specimens and verifying my identifications.

villosa, is Asiatic. All three have been reported in Illinois in the last decade.

In a previous article³ I reported the occurrence of *Jussiaea leptocarpa* Nutt. in two localities on the banks of the Mississippi River in Alexander County, Illinois, one in the Dogtooth Bend south of Miller City, the other at Fayville. The statement "We did not, however, observe this species on the riverbank at Thebes, about 5 miles upstream from Fayville" may have led some readers to the conclusions that Fayville was the northernmost limit of this species in Illinois. The fact is that Dr. M. W. Sanderson and I had not yet examined the riverbanks between Fayville and Thebes nor any of those north of Thebes.

In October and November, 1958, I spent 5 days along the shores of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers; Dr. Sanderson accompanied me on 3 of the 5 days. During this time I examined 15 stretches of riverbank from Bay City in Pope County, down the Ohio to its junction with the Mississippi just below Cairo and 13 northward along the Mississippi to Grand Tower in Jackson County. I observed *Jussiaea leptocarpa* in 14 of the 28 sites, 6 along the Ohio River and 8 along the Mississippi. In many of the 28 sites I found another willow primrose, *J. decurrens* (Walt.) DC., growing either alone or with *J. leptocarpa*.

Following are records of *Jussiaea leptocarpa* representing some of the specimens that have been added to the two previously cited in the herbarium of the Illinois Natural History Survey (ILLS):

ALEXANDER CO.: muddy shore of the Mississippi River southwest of Cache, October 14, 1958, *R. A. Evers* 59436; muddy shore of the Mississippi River southwest of McClure [opposite Cape Girardeau, Mo.], October 21, 1958, *R. A. Evers* 59699. JACKSON CO.: muddy shore of the Mississippi River at Grand Tower, October 22, 1958, *R. A. Evers* 59748. MASSAC CO.: muddy shore of the Ohio River at Brookport, October 15, 1958, *R. A. Evers* 59504. PULASKI CO.: muddy shore of the Ohio River at Baccus Landing, east of Grand Chain, October 21, 1958, *R. A. Evers* 59651. UNION CO.: muddy shore of the Mississippi River 4 miles northwest of Ware, November 12, 1958, *R. A. Evers*, 59770.

In the autumn of 1959, Dr. Sanderson and I plan to examine more of the muddy shores of the Ohio and Mississippi

³ *Rhodora* 60: 142-144, 1958.

rivers, especially north of Grand Tower on the Mississippi. *Jussiaea leptocarpa* is apparently more widespread in southern Illinois than botanists believed. To find this plant, it is necessary that the botanist be in the right place — on muddy shores — at the right time — September to November. ROBERT A. EVERS, ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, URBANA.

THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELEPHANTOPUS ELATUS. — Although *Elephantopus elatus* was described by Bertoloni in 1851, it was not considered distinct from *E. tomentosus* L. by other botanists until the beginning of the present century. The early doubt concerning the validity of this species was probably due, in part at least, to the influence of a paper published by Gray (1852) in which many of Bertoloni's binomials were shown to be mere synonyms of species described much earlier by Nuttall, Torrey, and others. Baker (1902), in a revision of the Elephantopeae, recognized the distinctiveness of *E. elatus* and reassigned it to specific status, distinguishing it from *E. tomentosus* by the denser and more coarsely pubescent glomerules and the shorter heads and pappus. Gleason (1919), too, confirmed the validity of *E. elatus*, pointing out that the trichomes on the mid-vein are forwardly appressed in this species while in *E. tomentosus* they are retrorse or spreading. In spite of these observations and the quite satisfactory key to the species of this genus provided by Gleason (1922) [but not later adopted by Small (1933)] *E. elatus* is still, in practice, seldom distinguished from *E. tomentosus*.

Concerning the distribution of these species Fernald (1950), Gleason (1952), and Small (1933) all merely report that *E. tomentosus* occurs in Florida, as Gleason (1922) and Small also report for *E. elatus*. Apparently there is no reference to the relative abundance of these species in this area or to the exact southern limits of their ranges. It is obvious, however, from certain publications (Baker, 1949; Ledin, 1951; et al.) and usage that *E. tomentosus* is accepted as the common species throughout Florida. Of the specimens examined in this study the only ones from Florida